Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 FEA-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /116 R

DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/ODF:AADAMS:DA APPROVED BY EB/IFD:JABWINDER, ACTING AID/PPC:KJAY

-----108491 192219Z /63

O 192157Z AUG 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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FOR AMBASSADOR WELLS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS--CIEC SPECIAL ACTION PROGRAM

REF: ISLAMABAD 8424

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR QUERY CONCERNING OUR PARTICIPATION
 IN THE ONE BILLION DOLLAR SPECIAL ACTION PROGRAM AGREED
 AT CIEC, THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL
 IN YOUR CONSULTATIONS.
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2. THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIAL ACTION PROGRAM IS \$375 MILLION. OUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE IN THE FORM OF AN INCREASE, OVER THE FY77 BASE LEVEL, IN A.I.D.'S NORMAL BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO THE LOW INCOME COUNTRIES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, FY 78 AND FY 79. BY LOW INCOME COUNTRIES WE MEAN COUNTRIES WHOSE PER CAPITA INCOME IN 1975 WAS LESS THAN \$520. THE ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL

BE MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE INCREASES IN COMMITMENT LEVELS IN FY 78 AND FY 79 OVER THE FY 77 LEVEL. THE BULK OF DISBURSEMENTS RELATED TO THIS CONTRIBUTION WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE COURSE OF TWO TO FOUR YEARS AND WILL, WE BELIEVE, BE CONSISTENT WITH THE DISBURSEMENT RATE OF THE CONTRIBUTION

OF OTHER DONORS. THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION WILL BE MADE UP OF A COMBINATION OF LOANS AND GRANTS (STANDARD A.I.D. LOAN TERMS OF 40 YEARS MATURITY, 10 YEARS GRACE, 2 PERCENT INTEREST DURING GRACE, 3 PERCENT DURING REPAYMENT YIELD A GRANT ELEMENT OF 68 PERCENT). ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW THE EXACT MIX OF LOANS AND GRANTS AND THUS DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE OVERALL CONCESSIONALITY WILL BE, THERE WILL BE A HEAVY PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL IN THE FORM OF GRANTS, IN PART REFLECTING A.I.D.'S GRANT POLICY TOWARD THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THUS, THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION WILL BE HIGHLY CONCESSIONAL.

3. THE CIEC ANNEX OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED THE U.S. PARTICI-PATION IN THE SPECIAL ACTION PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

THE U.S. WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPECIAL ACTION PROGRAMME THROUGH ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN ITS REGULAR BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES. THE ADMINISTRATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR INCREASED AID WHICH BY FY 79 WOULD RESULT IN AN EXTRA \$375 MILLION OF ASSISTANCE TO LOW INCOME COUNTRIES OVER PRESENT LEVELS. THE COUNTRIES FOR WHICH THIS ADDITIONAL EFFORT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IS THE GROUP ELIGIBLE FOR LENDING BY THE IDA.

END TEXT VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: CONSULTANTS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE198039
Document Source: COPE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: AADAMS:DA Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770300-0802

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770842/aaaabjld.tel

Line Count: 101 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 0ecc8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 8424

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1544303 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS--CIEC SPECIAL ACTION PROGRAM

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, GATT, CIEC
To: KUALA LUMPUR JAKARTA

MULTIPLE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ecc8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009